

Fellowships for Scholars Academic Year 2013-2014



The Institute for Advanced Study is an independent private institution in Princeton, New Jersey, founded in 1930 to create a community of scholars focused on intellectual inquiry, free from teaching and other university obligations. Each year, scholars from around the world apply to come to the Institute to pursue their own research. Those who are chosen are offered a membership for a set period and a stipend. Members receive access to the extensive resources of the Institute, including offices, access to libraries, subsidized restaurant and housing facilities, and some secretarial services.

The School of Social Science each year invites as Members around twenty visiting scholars who constitute a genuinely interdisciplinary and international group. A completed doctorate or equivalent is required by the application deadline, and memberships are awarded at both the junior and senior levels. Memberships are awarded for the full academic year only. Visiting Members are expected to pursue only their own research, while the School organizes a weekly seminar at which Members as well as invited guests present their ongoing work. The School is not wedded to any particular intellectual or disciplinary approach. It welcomes applications in economics, political science, law, psychology, sociology, and anthropology. It encourages social scientific work with a historical and humanistic bent and also considers applications in history, philosophy, literary criticism, literature, and linguistics. The following thematic focus is neither an exclusive nor excluding theme; it is expected that only one-third of the accepted scholars will pursue work relating to this theme. Applications are strongly encouraged from scholars across the social sciences, whether or not their research corresponds to the theme.



Andrea Kane

Theme 2013-14: The Environmental Turn and the Human Sciences

The widespread perception that humanity faces a series of related environmental challenges—climate change, growing human population, food security, energy crisis, shortage of fresh water, and so on—has spurred many disciplines to attempt to make the environment a central concern of their foundational paradigms. Economists, sociologists, historians, policy scientists and others have begun to address the issue of sustainability and the question of “the commons” in human affairs. Anthropologists and evolutionary biologists have begun to study communities facing environmental disruption while new and inter-disciplinary areas of investigation have emerged under the rubric of “environmental humanities.” Historians have begun to write long-term histories of energy consumption and to connect environmental histories to histories of capitalism, empires, and globalization. The idea of the Anthropocene (Crutzen 2000)—that human beings now act as a geophysical force changing the climate of the planet as a whole, ushering in a new geological period that follows the Holocene—has given rise to a new philosophical anthropology that attempts to re-situate the human in the natural order of things. In short, the human story is changing. During 2013-14, we hope to develop a shared conversation on the strategies that different disciplines are adopting to deal with the challenge of environmental crises. In particular, we would like to think through the following issues and see how the human condition is being re-imagined today in humanistic studies: (a) historical and political implications of the idea of the Anthropocene, (b) the problem of scale in the study of human societies, past, present, and future, (c) capitalism and sustainability, (d) the unsustainable distinction between natural and human histories, (e) rights, agency, justice, and politics in an age of climate change, (f) human responsibility towards life, and (g) the challenge of climate change for postcolonial studies (broadly conceived).

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

NOVEMBER 1, 2012

Applications must be submitted through the online application system, available at

www.sss.ias.edu/applications

Funding for Member Stipends is individually negotiated, taking into account the applicant's base salary and the level of sabbatical and other grant support he or she can secure. In setting compensation, the School attempts to provide half of the current academic base salary for all Members, up to a maximum of \$65,000.

In the upcoming academic year, the Institute will again take part in a program sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies: the Frederick Burkhardt Fellowships. These fellowships support more adventurous, more wide-ranging and longer-term patterns of research than are current in the humanities and related social sciences. Applicants must submit to ACLS a research plan typically covering a 3 - 5 year period, during which time one year could be spent as a Member at the Institute, either in the School of Historical Studies or the School of Social Science. Qualified candidates who would like to apply for affiliation with either School of the Institute for Advanced Study under the auspices of this program should visit the ACLS website (www.acls.org).